

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on February 5, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 5-12 were pending. Claims 5 and 7-12 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 5-12 are presented and at issue. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

A. Objection to the Drawing

The Examiner objected to the drawing as lacking word labels which, if present, would facilitate an understanding of what each of the elements in the drawing represents. Accordingly, a corrected version of FIG. 1, labeled as "Replacement Sheet 1 of 1", is submitted herewith. An annotated marked-up drawing for sheet 1/1 is also enclosed herewith for the convenience of the Examiner, with additions indicated in red and deletions indicated in yellow. Word labels were added to identify processor bus (denoted as PB in the originally filed version of the drawing), first store (S1), second store (S2), third store (S3), fourth store (S4), decoder (DK), first write store (SS1), second write store (SS2), execution unit (AE), and system bus (SB). The aforementioned terms were used throughout applicant's originally filed disclosure to refer to corresponding elements of FIG. 1. Moreover, a label was added to Replacement Sheet 1 of 1, so as to identify this sheet as including FIG. 1. No new matter was added. Thus, it is submitted that the corrected version of FIG. 1 will facilitate the Examiner's understanding of the various drawing elements.

B. Objections to the Disclosure

The Examiner objected to the specification because pages 1 and 2 included references to "claim 1". Accordingly, pages 1 and 2 of the specification have been amended to remove references to claim 1. It is submitted that these changes overcome the Examiner's objection.

C. Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112

The Examiner rejected claims 5-12 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 was rejected because it was not clear to the Examiner whether the claim was directed to an apparatus or a method. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended to clearly set forth an apparatus as opposed to a method. Method-like limitations such as "following the first store, there is provided" and "following the first functional section, there is provided" have been reworded so as to recite apparatus limitations. Claim 5 was also rejected because it contains two periods. The first period was a typographical error and has been deleted. Moreover, claim 5 was rejected because the phrase "the individual function lines" lack positive antecedent basis. Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for this element. In view of the foregoing changes to claim 5, it is submitted that claim 5 now meets all applicable requirements of 35 USC 112.

The Examiner rejected claims 6-12 because these claims depend from claim 5. Since claim 5 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections, it is submitted that claims 6-12 meet all applicable requirements of 35 USC 112 for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 5.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 because the phrase "for bus transactions starting from the bus connection up to the execution unit of the third functional section" was unclear. Accordingly, this phrase has been amended to specify that at least one bus transaction arrives at the execution unit of the third functional section from the higher-level processor system by means of a first shortcut (KW1). It is submitted that claims 7 and 8 now meet all applicable requirements of 35 USC 112.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-12 because the phrase "for the first class of transaction, starting from a point of arrival in the second functional section up to the execution unit of the third functional section" was unclear. Accordingly, this phrase has been amended to specify that at least one transaction of the first class of transactions arrives at the execution unit of the third functional section from the first functional section by means of a second shortcut (KW2). It is submitted that claims 9-12 now meet all applicable requirements of 35 USC 112.

D. Summary

In view of the foregoing changes, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. If, however, there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

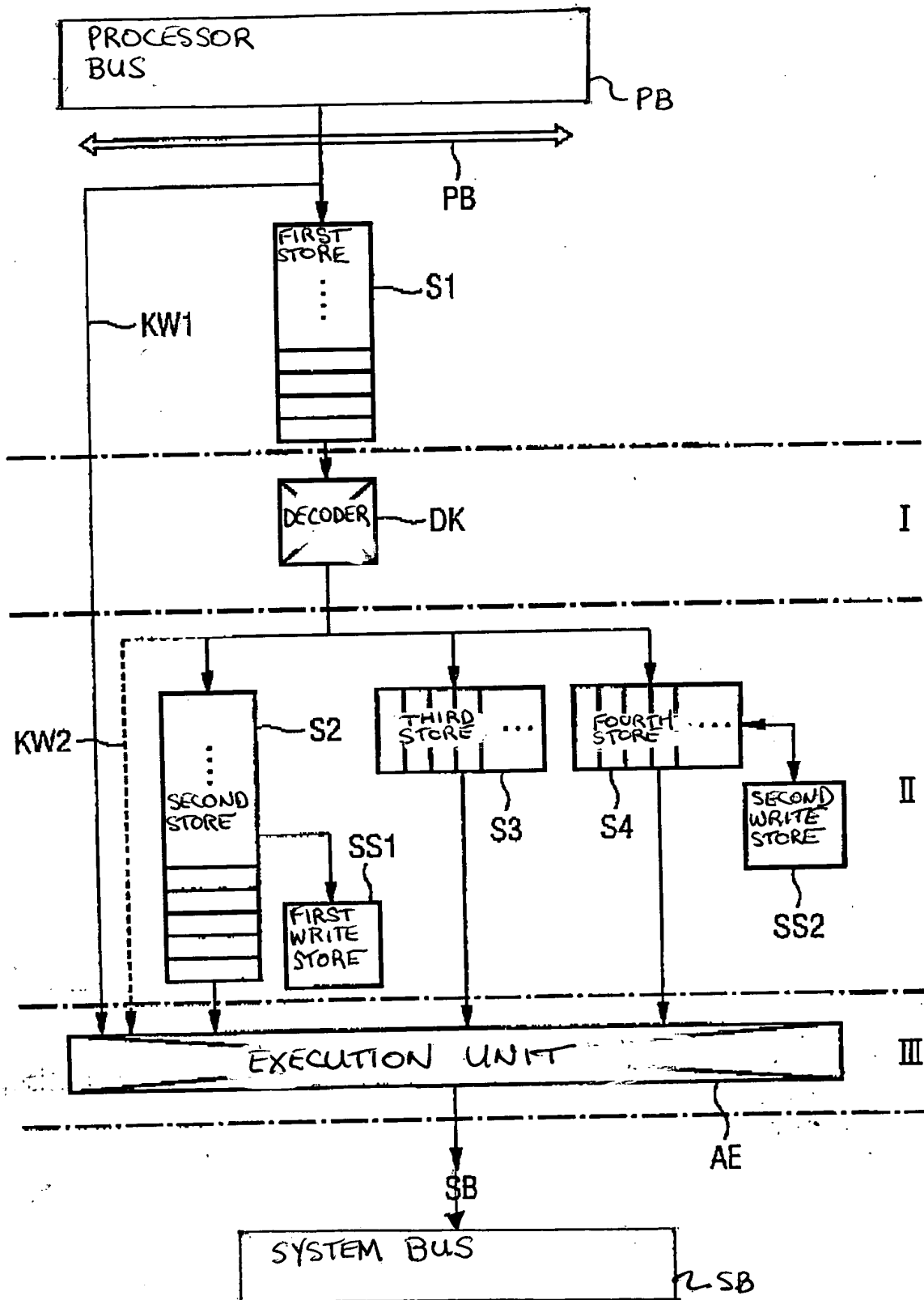
By Thomas Langer
Thomas Langer
Reg. No. 27,264
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWING - 1 OF 1

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FIG. 1